

ANNEX A

BACKGROUND OF RECOMMENDATIONS IN
PARAGRAPH 5 OF BASIC MEMORANDUM

1. Operational Planning: In cooperation with the Air Force, a joint operational and administrative planning group has already been assembled.

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[REDACTED] I believe this staff, which has been at work for some weeks, should be treated as a joint planning staff for the project and instructed to prepare full operational, logistical and administrative plans to be submitted for our review by 1 November 1955. At present this staff is under the direction of the Senior Project Officer (CIA). In order to strengthen it, to make it more representative, and to ensure that the views of the Air Force are fully reflected as its planning proceeds, I suggest (as the first immediate step to facilitate preparations for the operational phase) that you assign a senior Air Force Officer to serve as the Deputy to the Senior Project Officer and to share with him the responsibility for all project planning and for all other project activities which will be going forward during the next few months.

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2. Logistic Planning and Support: Logistic planning, too, has already been initiated by the joint planning staff and extensive logistic support to the project is being provided in connection with the development and procurement of the weapons system. Preliminary arrangements have been made to use Pratt and Whitney facilities in Hartford as a depot for engines and spares and to establish a depot in a compartmented section of [REDACTED] Air Force Base for other spares and components. In the next few months, logistic procedures must be developed, requirements estimated and preliminary arrangements made for the supply of operational units overseas. At the same time, some current logistic support will still be necessary, especially in the form of fuel for test flights, air lift to the [REDACTED] and weapons system components. Logistic planning should, of course, be one of the functions of the joint planning staff. The staff should also be authorized to develop preliminary supply arrangements, subject to coordination (as appropriate within security restrictions) with interested elements of the Air Force and the CIA. Experience to date indicates that,

in order to perform these functions effectively and securely, the Supply Officer on the joint planning staff should be able to call upon a designated project officer in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Materiel, as well as upon the officer in the parallel position now occupied by [REDACTED] in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, Development. The duties of these two officers should be to ensure that support is furnished by their offices as required and appropriate.

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3. Recruitment and Training of Personnel: The recruitment of CIA and Air Force personnel for this project in appreciable numbers began about two months ago. Since that time, some [REDACTED] CIA personnel have been assigned to it or selected for assignment and nearly one-half of the Air Force officers believed to be required have been assigned or their names have been submitted for clearance. A contract has been signed with the aircraft manufacturer under which the recruitment and training of maintenance personnel has already begun. Some [REDACTED] pilots of [REDACTED] are in process of recruitment in case they are required and arrangements have been made with the Air Training Command to commence their preliminary training in September. Aeromedical personnel, especially important in this project, are being selected with the help of [REDACTED] ARDC. Even though the target date for the commencement of operations is not until 1 March 1956, it is essential that recruitment and assignment go forward so that the selection and reassignment of individuals may be made in an orderly fashion and they can be given adequate time for leave between assignments, for processing, and then for training on the project's specialized weapons system. Moreover, whatever form of organization and channels of control we may ultimately adopt for the operational phase, the same skills and roughly the same Table of Organization will be required. Accordingly, I suggest that the senior Air Force Officer assigned to the planning staff should be requested, as a first and urgent task, to review the provisional Table of Organization that has been drawn up for the project and, within the limits set by security requirements, to coordinate it with appropriate elements of the Air Force so that we may develop an agreed basis for staffing. Thereafter, the Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel, could be advised that the requirements for Air Force personnel thus established is approved, at least on an interim basis, and that personnel actions should go forward as required in accordance with the presently established procedure, which is working smoothly. Since only about one-half of the Air Force personnel will have to be assigned by the time operational and administrative plans are submitted for final review, the course of action here suggested will not forestall a modification of the project's Table of Organization at a later date, if this should prove to be desirable.

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4. Air Staff Task Force: A project officer [REDACTED] has already been designated by the Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel, to maintain liaison with the joint planning staff and to ensure that approved requirements for Air Force personnel for this project are filled. Support of the project might well be facilitated if this officer and the project officers designated by the Deputy Chief of Staff, Materiel, and the Deputy Chief of Staff, Development, constituted an informal Air Staff Task Force. Such a group should probably include a project officer designated by the Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations. I suggest that the Chief of the Special Activities Branch, Subsidiary Plans Division, might be considered for this position, since as a part of his regular duties he frequently has [REDACTED] and thus his efforts in support of OILSTONE would have excellent cover. (I have the impression that he could serve as the Operations Project Officer for OILSTONE while continuing to perform his other duties.)

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5. Assignment and Modification of Support Aircraft: The present operational concept for the project contemplates that, in order to exploit to the maximum the range of the primary mission aircraft, missions will often be flown from staging bases near the enemy's border, which will be occupied only for brief periods and at which no facilities will be available. This method of operation imposes a requirement for high mobility which it is proposed to meet by using KC-97 and C-54 aircraft to move personnel, fuel, and ground-handling equipment to and from staging bases. It is also contemplated that KC-97 aircraft will be used operationally in towing missions, for which the primary mission aircraft will have a capability. Cargo aircraft will be required for logistical support as well, especially in view of the specialized character of engines, reconnaissance equipment, and other components of the weapons system which will necessitate the centralization of stocks of spares and the performance of much maintenance at suppliers' facilities in the ZI. To perform the operational functions efficiently, support aircraft crews should have some training with the units to which they will be attached. Moreover, the KC-97 aircraft will require modification. Accordingly, it will be necessary within a month or two to begin the modification of support aircraft and then within three or four months the assignment of their crews. To enable these preparations to go forward, I suggest the following steps. First, responsibility for providing this support should be assigned to an appropriate element of the Air Force. Second, the senior Air Force Officer assigned to the joint planning staff should review the requirement for support aircraft, assure himself as to its validity, and coordinate it with other offices in the Air Force as appropriate. In this way the necessary work can go forward, yet you will be assured that the requirement for support aircraft has been carefully examined by responsible Air Force Officers.

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